

Rocky Hill Board of Health –Minutes of the Meeting on February 10, 2009

Location: Borough Hall

Members present: Lisbeth Haines, M.D. (presiding); Susan Fisher, V.M.D.; Mary Germain, Ed.D., APRN-BC, FNAP; Beverly Poelstra, M.D.; Margaret Querec, M.S.N, R.N.

Present: Stephen Papenberg, Health Officer.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:36, prior notification having been given in compliance with the Open Public Meeting Law, Chapter 231

Review and Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of January 13, 2009 were reviewed. They were approved as amended by a vote on a motion made by Dr. Haines and seconded by Ms. Querec.

Report of the Health Officer

- Mr. Papenberg discussed the outcome of initial discussions by the Middlesex County committee charged with studying the structure and function of Health Services, on which he is serving. They concluded that there had been previous studies by other counties and/or the State that had dealt with the same questions and recommended that it not be repeated.
- The budget is currently being discussed but cuts are anticipated.

Old Business

- Dr. Poelstra reported on the recent meeting of the Municipal Alliance. A representative has been appointed from the Borough Council and it was discussed whether she and Dr. Poelstra could share a voting membership, with one serving as an alternate, since a voting member must attend at least 10 meetings and Dr. Poelstra's schedule will prevent her from doing so.
- Mr. Pappenberg presented a draft contract for Animal Control services between South Brunswick Township and the Borough of Rocky Hill. This will be the first revision since 1992. The contract was discussed and it was agreed that one sentence was unacceptable and must be deleted ("In the event that neither is available, no service will be rendered.")
- Mr. Papenberg reported that Robert Ulrich was proceeding with plans for the April Rabies Clinic. A veterinarian has been engaged and would be available on a Saturday. Dr. Fisher urged that the clinic be held on a Saturday to allow more residents to attend. Dr. Haines expressed her gratitude to Mr. Papenberg for making the arrangements for the clinic, despite our not being certain who will be our contracted health department at that time.

New Business

- There was a discussion about the level of detail needed in the minutes and the possibility of looking into hiring a recording secretary. Mr. Papenberg felt that the minutes have been more detailed than necessary.
- Dr. Haines announced an upcoming meeting of the World Health Care Congress April 14-16 in Washington, D.C. She is interested in attending and Dr. Fisher may also be interested.

Review of the Draft Contract with Somerset County for Public Health Services

A discussion was begun on the proposal offered by Somerset County. Included in the discussion were issues raised by the Borough attorney, Albert Cruz, and conveyed to Dr. Haines through Linda Goldman, our Borough Council Liaison. The discussion included but was not limited to the following:

- Item 1 – Communicable Disease activities should be explicitly listed among the agreed upon activities for which the County is responsible.
- Item 3 – The terms of the contract: The contract allows for yearly increases or decreases based on actual costs. The Board discussed whether it was necessary to add a cap to the amount. Mr. Papenberg felt that it was very unlikely to be necessary and that the contract, as it is presently worded, is more likely to result in a decrease than an increase.
- Item 5 – The advance notice requirement for termination of contract should be changed from 90 days to 6 months.
- Item 6 – A. Handling of animal bite situations. The intent of the wording in the contract was unclear to everyone and needs to be clarified and changed. The Board would expect the County to be responsible for determining compliance with quarantine orders.
- Maternal and child health care, public health nursing, housing and plumbing inspections need to be accounted for. If Somerset County itself subcontracts for some of these items we should seek to expand the proposed contract to include them as subcontracted services.

It was agreed that the Board will hold an additional meeting this month in order to complete the review and discussion of the contract. It was tentatively set for Wednesday, February 18 at 4:30 P.M.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 P.M.

Submitted by Susan Fisher